

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.01 [2.1/2.5]  
QID: P362 (B364)

Which one of the following is not a function performed by burnable poisons in an operating reactor?

- A. Provide neutron flux shaping.
- B. Provide more uniform power density.
- C. Counteract the effects of control rod burnout.
- D. Allow higher fuel enrichment of initial core load.

ANSWER: C.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.01 [2.1/2.5]  
QID: P864

Instead of using a higher concentration of soluble boric acid, burnable poisons are installed in a new reactor core to...

- A. prevent boron precipitation during normal operation.
- B. develop a less positive moderator temperature coefficient.
- C. allow control rods to be withdrawn farther upon initial criticality.
- D. maintain reactor coolant pH above a minimum acceptable value.

ANSWER: B.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.01 [2.1/2.5]  
QID: P1664

Why are burnable poisons installed in a new reactor core instead of using a larger reactor coolant boron concentration?

- A. To prevent boron precipitation during normal operation.
- B. To establish a more negative moderator temperature coefficient.
- C. To minimize the distortion of the neutron flux distribution caused by soluble boron.
- D. To allow the loading of excessive reactivity in the form of higher fuel enrichment.

ANSWER: B.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P64

A reactor is near the end of its fuel cycle. Reactor power and coolant temperature are being allowed to "coast down."

Why is RCS boron dilution no longer used to compensate for fuel depletion?

- A. RCS boron concentration has become so high that a very large amount of boron must be added to produce a small increase in boron concentration.
- B. The reactivity worth of the boron has decreased so much that a very large amount of water must be added to the RCS to make a small positive reactivity addition to the core.
- C. Boron concentration has become so low that a very large amount of water must be added to the RCS to produce a small decrease in boron concentration.
- D. The reactivity worth of the boron has increased so much that reactivity changes from RCS boron dilution cannot be safely controlled by the operator.

ANSWER: C.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P264 (B564)

Just prior to a refueling outage, a nuclear plant is operating at 100% power with a reactor coolant boron concentration of 50 ppm. After the refueling outage, the 100% boron concentration is approximately 1,000 ppm.

Which one of the following is the primary reason for the large increase in full-power boron concentration?

- A. Reactivity from power defect at beginning of core life (BOL) is much greater than at end of core life (EOL).
- B. Differential boron worth at BOL is much less than at EOL.  
[Inverse boron worth at BOL is much greater than at EOL.]
- C. The excess reactivity in the core at BOL is much greater than at EOL.
- D. The integral control rod worth at BOL is much less than at EOL.

ANSWER: C.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P464

During a six-month period of continuous full power reactor operation, the reactor coolant boron concentration must be decreased steadily to compensate for...

- A. buildup of fission product poisons and decreasing control rod worth.
- B. fuel depletion and buildup of fission product poisons.
- C. decreasing control rod worth and burnable poison burnout.
- D. burnable poison burnout and fuel depletion.

ANSWER: B.

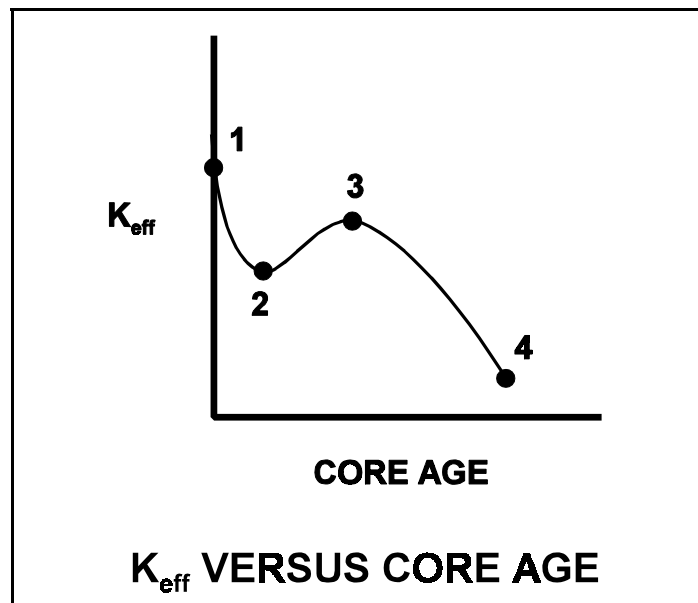
TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P1264 (B1163)

Refer to the drawing of  $K_{\text{eff}}$  versus core age for a reactor core following a refueling outage (see figure below).

Which one of the following is responsible for the majority of the decrease in  $K_{\text{eff}}$  from point 1 to point 2?

- A. Depletion of fuel
- B. Burnout of burnable poisons
- C. Initial heat-up of the reactor
- D. Buildup of fission product poisons

ANSWER: D.



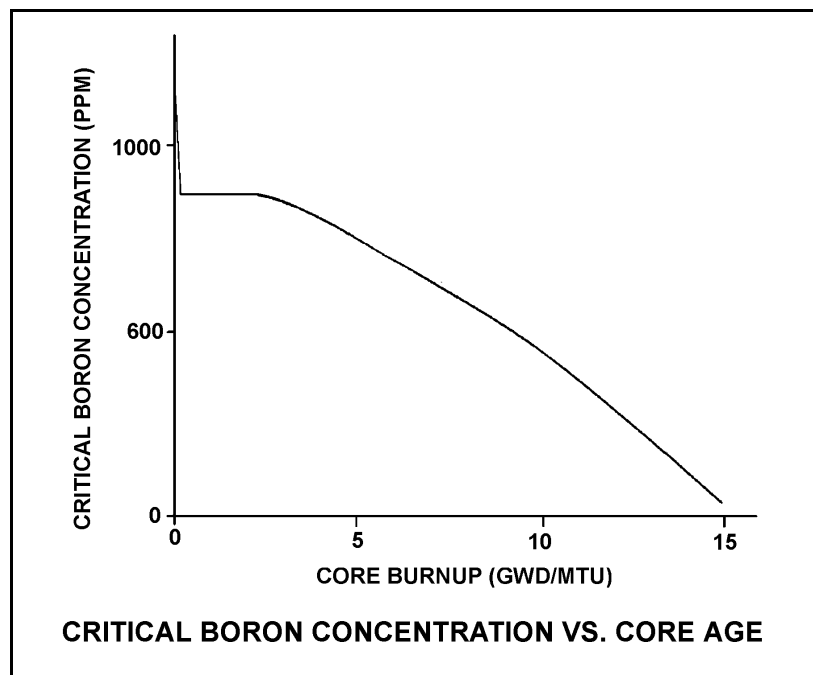
TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P1563 (B1563)

Refer to the graph of critical boron concentration versus burnup for a reactor core following a refueling outage (See figure below.).

Which one of the following is primarily responsible for the shape of the curve from the middle of core life to the end of core life?

- A. Fuel depletion
- B. Fission product buildup
- C. Burnable poison burnout
- D. Conversion of U-238 to Pu-239

ANSWER: A.



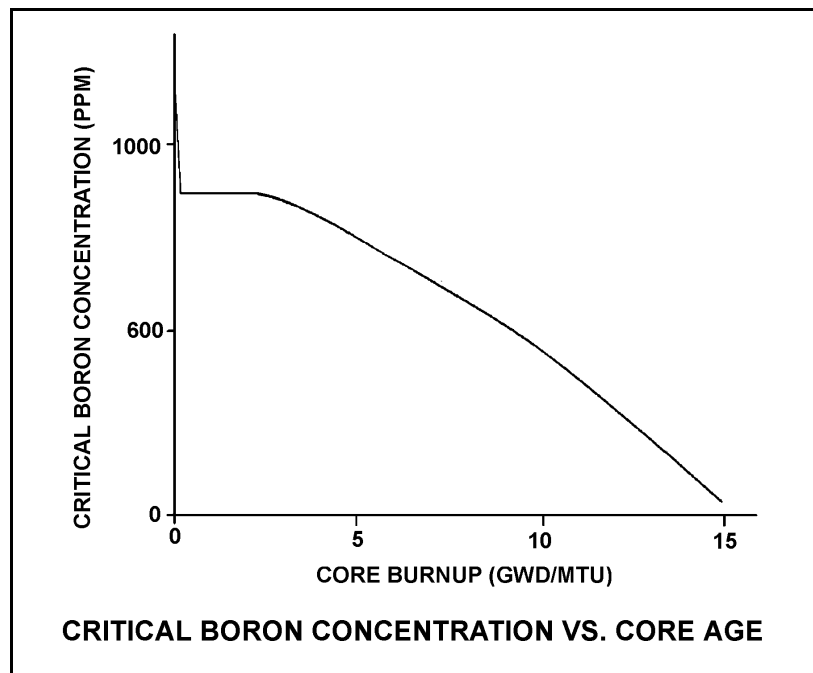
TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P1864 (B1364)

Refer to the graph of critical boron concentration versus core burnup for a reactor core during its first fuel cycle (see figure below).

Which one of the following explains why reactor coolant critical boron concentration becomes relatively constant early in core life?

- A. Buildup of fission product poisons is being offset by burnable poison burnout and fuel depletion.
- B. Burnable poison burnout and fuel depletion are being offset by buildup of fission product poisons.
- C. Fuel depletion is being offset by the buildup of fissionable plutonium and fission product poison buildup.
- D. Fission product poison buildup and fuel depletion are being offset by burnable poison burnout.

ANSWER: D.



TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P2763 (N/A)

During continuous full-power reactor operation in the middle of a fuel cycle, the reactor coolant boron concentration must be decreased periodically to compensate for fuel depletion. What other core age-related factor requires a periodic decrease in reactor coolant boron concentration?

- A. Decreasing control rod worth
- B. Buildup of fission product poisons
- C. Burnout of burnable poisons
- D. Decreasing fuel temperature

ANSWER: B.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.04 [3.1/3.4]  
QID: P2964 (N/A)

A reactor has been operating at 100% power for three months following a refueling outage. If the reactor is operated at 100% power without making RCS boron additions or dilutions for the next month, RCS boron concentration will...

- A. decrease because boron atoms decompose at normal RCS operating temperatures.
- B. decrease because irradiated boron-10 atoms undergo a neutron-alpha reaction.
- C. remain constant because irradiated boron-10 atoms become stable boron-11 atoms.
- D. remain constant because irradiated boron-10 atoms still have large absorption cross sections for thermal neutrons.

ANSWER: B.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.05 [3.0/3.2]  
QID: P1964

Which one of the following describes whether reactor power can be increased from 50% to 100% in a controlled manner faster at the beginning of core life (BOL) or at the end of core life (EOL)? (Assume all control rods are fully withdrawn just prior to beginning the power increase.)

- A. Faster at EOL due to faster changes in boron concentration
- B. Faster at EOL due to greater control rod worth
- C. Faster at BOL due to faster changes in boron concentration
- D. Faster at BOL due to greater control rod worth

ANSWER: C.

TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.05 [3.0/3.2]  
QID: P2053

Which one of the following compares the rate at which reactor power can be increased at the beginning of core life (BOL) and at the end of core life (EOL)?

- A. Slower at EOL due to slower changes in boron concentration
- B. Slower at EOL due to lower control rod worth
- C. Slower at BOL due to slower changes in boron concentration
- D. Slower at BOL due to lower control rod worth

ANSWER: A.



TOPIC: 192007  
KNOWLEDGE: K1.05 [3.0/3.2]  
QID: P3364 (N/A)

A nuclear reactor has been shut down for 8 hours following a loss of offsite power. A reactor coolant system (RCS) cooldown on single-phase natural circulation is in progress.

Compared to adding boric acid to the RCS during forced circulation, adding boric acid during natural circulation requires \_\_\_\_\_ time to achieve complete mixing in the RCS; and, once completely mixed at a given coolant temperature, a 1 ppm increase in RCS boron concentration during natural circulation will cause a/an \_\_\_\_\_ change in core reactivity.

- A. more; smaller
- B. more; equal
- C. less; smaller
- D. less; equal

ANSWER: B.